

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A multi-function object holder for optionally supporting a first object or a second object to be scanned, comprising:

a base plate for supporting said first or second object, having ~~thereon~~ an upper surface and a first recessed surface and a second recessed surface both disposed below the upper surface, the first recessed surface defining a scanning window—~~a scanning window and a resting space;~~ and

a cover plate coupled to said base plate and movable between a working position over said scanning window and said first recessed surface for pressing said first object in position when said first object is to be scanned and a resting position ~~inside said resting space~~ wherein the cover plate is not positioned over the scanning window and is positioned over said second recessed surface when said second object is to be scanned, wherein the cover plate does not protrude above the upper surface of the base plate in the working position and resting position.

2. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 1 wherein said scanning window and said resting space are arranged side by side and both extend along the scanning direction.

3. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 2 wherein said scanning window and said resting space are identical to each other and symmetrically arranged.

4. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 1 wherein said resting space is a recess in said base plate.

5. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 1 wherein said resting space is an opening in said base plate.

6. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 5 wherein said base plate has a rack member inside said opening for supporting said cover plate when said cover plate is moved to said resting position.

7. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 6 wherein said rack member has a thickness less than a portion of said base plate around said opening, and a portion of said cover plate to be directly supported with said rack member has a thickness less than a portion of said cover plate resting in said opening so that said cover plate in each of said working and resting positions does not protrude from said base plate.

8. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 1 wherein said cover plate has a specific thickness so that an upper surface of said cover plate is aligned with an upper surface of said base plate in both said working position and said resting position.

9. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 1 wherein said cover plate is pivotally coupled to said base plate via a hinge device.

10. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 1 wherein said cover plate is coupled to said base plate via a slidably engaging device.

11. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 10 wherein said slidably engaging device includes a sliding member and a track member arranged on said base plate and said cover plate and engaging with each other, and said sliding member is slidable between said working position and resting position along said track member.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A multi-function object holder for optionally supporting a first object or a second object to be scanned, comprising:

a base plate for supporting said first or second object, having ~~thereon~~ an upper surface and a first recessed surface and a second recessed surface both disposed below the upper surface, the first recessed surface defining a scanning window ~~a scanning window and a resting space;~~
and

a cover plate for pressing said first object on said ~~scanning window~~ first recessed surface when said first object is scanned such that an upward facing surface of the cover plate does not protrude above the upper surface of the base plate, being hidden in said resting space without protruding from said base plate when said second object is to be scanned the cover plate selectively positionable over the second recessed surface when said second object is positioned over the first recessed surface such that the cover plate does not protrude above the upper surface of the base plate.

13. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 12 wherein said cover plate is pivotally coupled to said base plate via a hinge device.

14. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 12 wherein said cover plate is coupled to said base plate via a slidably engaging device.

15. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 12 wherein said scanning window and said resting space are identical to each other and symmetrically arranged.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A multi-function object holder for optionally supporting a first object or a second object to be scanned, comprising:

a base plate for supporting said first or second object; and

a movable plate moving to a first position when said first object is scanned and moving to a second position when said second object is scanned, wherein said movable plate in each of said first and second positions is coupled to said base plate and does not protrude above an upper surface of the base plate.

17. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 16 wherein said movable plate is pivotally coupled to said base plate via a hinge device.

18. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 16 wherein said movable plate is coupled to said base plate via a slidably engaging device.

19. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 16 wherein said movable plate is a cover plate for pressing said first object in position when moving to said first position and is an idle plate hidden inside said base plate when moving to said second position.

20. **(Original)** The multi-function object holder according to claim 19 wherein said base plate includes a scanning window for placing thereon said first or second object to be scanned and a resting space immediately adjacent to said scanning window for hiding therein said cover plate when said second object is scanned.

21. **(New)** A method for mounting objects to be scanned, comprising:
placing a first object on a first recessed surface formed on a base plate having a portion of the first object extending across a scanning window defined in the first recessed surface;
transitioning a cover plate coupled to the base plate into a working position resting on the first object;

transitioning the cover plate from the working position to a resting position wherein the cover plate rests on a second recessed surface formed on the base plate adjacent the first recessed surface and coplanar with the first recessed surface;

removing the first object from over the first recessed surface; and

placing a second object over the first recessed surface; and

wherein the cover plate does not protrude above an upper surface of the base plate in both the working and resting positions.

22. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein the second object has a thickness substantially greater than that of the first object.

23. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein the base plate further comprises a third recessed surface surrounding the first recessed surface and disposed vertically between the upper surface of the base plate and the first recessed surface; and wherein placing the second object over the first recessed surface comprises placing the second object in contact with the third recessed surface.

24. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising resting the base plate on a penetrative scanner and scanning the first object.